Amendments to various labour laws are proposed keeping in view the requirement of the social partners and after a process of consultation. The Government has received the Report of the Second National Commission on Labour. This Report will serve as an useful input for formulation of policies and legislations on labour matters. No fixed time-frame can be given for putting in place the amendments to the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

Agreements Signed by Indian Delegation with Singapore

*278. SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN:
SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) The agreements signed by the Indian delegation with the Government of Singapore during the Prime Minister's recent visit to Singapore;

(b) Whether it is a fact that some major industrialists have shown disinterest with regard to investments in India, in view of the recent communal clashes in a part of the country; and

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) During the Prime Minister's visit to Singapore from 7-9, April, 2002, the two countries signed two Memoranda of Understanding for (i) co-operation in the field of telecommunications and (ii) culture & heritiage.

(b) No, Sir. No specific cases from Singapore have come to Government's notice.

(c) Does not arise.

National Highways in Andhra Pradesh

*279. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared any action plan for replacement of level crossings by road overbridges on the National Highways in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to prepare such an action plan in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per Ministry's guidelines, Railway, Over Bridges (ROBs) are provided to replace the exisitng level crossings if the product of Average Daily Traffic (fast vehicles only) and the number of gate closures per day exceeds 50,000 in the design year. Out of the 66 numbers of level crossings on National Highways in Andhra Pradesh, 32 do not qualify for replacement by ROBs since they do not meet the above guidelines of the Ministry.

Replacement of 28 numbers of level crossings on National Highway No. 5 and 7 by ROBs is being done under National Highways Development Project (NHDP). Of the remaining 6 provision for Land Acquisition for 3 ROBs is included in the Annual Plan 2002-03. The remaining 3 will be taken up in phases subject to inter-se-priority and availability of funds.

New Telephone exchanges in Assam

*280. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new telephone exchanges have been set up in Assam during the year 2001-2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof, disctrict-wise; and

(c) the details of telephone exchanges proposed to be set up during the current year and the steps being taken by Govenrment in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A total of 34 new telephone exchanges were set up in the State of Assam during the year 2001-2002. The district wise details are given in statement-I. (*See* below)

(c) It is planned to set up 40 new exchanges during 2002-2003, out